

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 VO-03 DHA-02 H-01 CIAE-00  
INSE-00 LAB-04 ORM-02 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE/GPFOURIER/D/HA/GWARREN  
APPROVED BY EUR - R.E. BARBOUR  
SCA/JOHN DEWITT  
SCA/VO/JULIO ARIAS  
D/HA/JAMES CARLIN  
H/ROBERT PUGH

-----040014Z 064323 /62

O P 032337Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, SREF, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE

REF: LISBON 3892

1. MEETING TO HELP FIND RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
PORTUGUESE WHICH VICE PRESIDENT SUGGESTED DURING MAY 14-18  
VISIT (REFTEL) WAS HELD IN DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 2. REPRE-  
SENTED WERE STATE (EUR, EUR/WE, SCA, SCA/VO AND D/HA),  
LABOR AND JUSTICE (IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE)  
DEPARTMENTS. ALSO ATTENDING WERE CARDINAL MEDEIROS, REPRE-  
SENTATIVE OF VOLAG U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE (USCC), AMBAS-  
SADOR THEMIDO AND CONSULAR OFFICERS WILLIAMS AND POVENMIRE.  
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2. GOVERNMENT AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES CONVEYED UNANIMOUS  
UNDERSTANDING OF SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS  
CAUSED BY RETURNEE INFLUX. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED DESIRE TO  
ASSIST IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY CONSISTENT WITH U.S. POLITICAL,  
LEGAL AND UNEMPLOYMENT CONSTRAINTS. CARDINAL MEDEIROS AND  
AMBASSADOR THEMIDO EXPRESSED THEIR GRATITUDE FOR WHAT

CARDINAL DESCRIBED AS WARM AND "POSITIVE RESPONSE" TO PROBLEM OF MAJOR POLITICAL IMPORTANCE IN PORTUGAL AND GENERAL HUMANITARIAN CONCERN.

3. INCREASED LABOR CERTIFICATIONS: SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON MEANS OF INCREASING AND EXPEDITING LABOR CERTIFICATIONS FOR PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING LEGISLATION. LABOR DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES AGREED TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO IDENTIFY GEOGRAPHICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AREAS IN THE U.S. WHICH COULD MOST LIKELY ABSORB INCREASED PORTUGUESE IMMIGRATION. USCC REPRESENTATIVE WHO ALSO SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF UMBRELLA VOLAG ORGANIZATION (AMERICAN COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES) WILL HOLD MEETING WITH LABOR DEPARTMENT AND OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS WHAT LABOR DEPARTMENT MAY DO TO FACILITATE ISSUANCE OF LABOR CERTIFICATIONS.

4. THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT: PARTICIPANTS ALSO DISCUSSED ONGOING EFFORTS TO RESETTLE PORTUGUESE IN THIRD COUNTRIES. AS EMBASSY AWARE ICEM HAS HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS IN LOCATING RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES THUS FAR DESPITE AVAILABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL FUNDING (INCLUDING \$1 MILLION FROM USG) ALTHOUGH ICEM DIRECTOR RECENTLY REPORTED SOME PROGRESS. VENEZUELA HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT 3,000 PERSONS BUT BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES HAVE HAMPERED EFFORTS. CARDINAL MEDEIROS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CORRESPOND WITH COLLEAGUES IN CANADA AND LATIN AMERICA TO STIMULATE GREATER INTEREST. USCC THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS CHANNELS WILL PURSUE RESETTLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES PROSPECTS FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES ARE REASONABLY GOOD FOR REMAINDER OF 1977 AND 1978.

5. SPECIAL LEGISLATION OR PAROLE PROGRAM: DESPITE CONSISTENT INDICATIONS TO CONTRARY, USCC REPRESENTATIVE, SUPPORTED BY CARDINAL MEDEIROS AND AMBASSADOR THEMIDO, REMAINED HOPEFUL THAT ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN TO WAIVE LABOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT THROUGH SELECTIVE PAROLE PROGRAM UNDER INA SECTION 212(D) (5) OR THROUGH SPECIAL LEGISLATION EXEMPTING PORTUGUESE. ALTHOUGH ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT EVENTUAL EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION SHOULD NOT BE FORECLOSED AT THIS TIME, USG REPS CONCURRED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED NOW. INS REPRESENTATIVE NOTED THAT ENERGETIC PURSUIT OF LABOR CERTIFICATION APPROACH SHOULD PRECEDE ANY DISCUSSION OF PAROLE POSSIBILITIES SINCE ONLY AFTER EXISTING REMEDIES HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY EXHAUSTED WOULD

OTHER ALTERNATIVES BE LIKELY TO RECEIVE SERIOUS CONSIDER-  
ATION. MEETING ENDED WITH UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT TO DEVOTE  
EXPEDITED ATTENTION TO LABOR CERTIFICATION APPROACH.  
FYI: USCC REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD SIMUL-

TANEOUSLY CONTINUE SOUNDINGS IN CONGRESS ON PAROLE OR  
SPECIAL LEGISLATION POSSIBILITIES. END FYI CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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